

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicant respectfully requests that the following Amendment be made to the above-identified application, prior to examination thereof by the Examiner:

In the claims:

Please amend the claims, as follows:

Please add the following new claims 17-20:

- 1 --17. In a data link switching (DLSw) network, apparatus for improving interaction
- 2 between a first remote DLSw device coupled to a remote subnetwork including a switch
- 3 having a forwarding table and a local DLSw device coupled to a local subnetwork
- 4 including local end stations, the local DLSw device establishing a first logical peer
- 5 connection with the first remote DLSw device in response to a failure of a second remote
- 6 DLSw device, the apparatus comprising:
- 7 a configuration data structure stored at the first remote DLSw device, the
- 8 configuration data structure being used to determine the local end stations that are
- 9 reachable through the first logical DLSw peer connection;
- 10 at least one test frame structure generated by the first remote DLSw device, the
- 11 test frame structure having a source address comprising an address of a reachable local
- 12 end station; and